



SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER WINTER 2023

SAFEGUARDING TEAM

We hope that our winter newsletter finds you all well. This edition has helpful updates, reminders and exciting news around a new Safeguarding Hub which will be added to your existing Safeguarding Dashboard.

Any new concerns or general enquiries should be sent to the team email or if more urgent by calling the team number. The contact details are safeguarding@leeds.anglican.org. Tel: 0113 353 0257

We encourage you to visit our Safeguarding pages on the Diocesan Website. These are frequently updated a useful source of guidance and help for any questions you may have. [Safeguarding is everyone's business | The Diocese of Leeds, Church of England \(anglican.org\)](#)

COMING SOON – SAFEGUARDING HUBS

We are delighted that the Diocese of Leeds has invested in Safeguarding Hubs, which will assist all aspects of safer recruitment. This will be available from February/March 2023. We will let you know when the Safeguarding Hubs have gone live and should be visible on your Safeguarding Dashboard.

These hubs help make parishes meet the Church of England's safeguarding requirements and are fully integrated with Safeguarding Dashboards - now used in almost 6,000 parishes nationally.

Our introduction of the Safeguarding Dashboard has been hugely successful with an 81 per cent take-up and positive feedback in particular from Parish Safeguarding Officer's (PSOs) who find it very supportive and helpful. If your Parish is not using the Dashboard, then please see the advantages by viewing this link and get in contact with the Safeguarding Team who will explain the benefits and how to get you on. <https://www.safeguardingdashboards.org.uk/support/dashboard-updates/dashboard-updates-june-2022.php>

Like the Dashboard, Safeguarding Hubs work equally well on a mobile phone, tablet or computer and features the three tools below, which can be used independently or together:

Role Creator - The Role Creator clarifies safeguarding requirements and creates Role Descriptions and Person Specifications. It has a range of templates that are easy to customise.

People Manager - The People Manager keeps track of ongoing safeguarding requirements and automatically sends reminders. It monitors DBS checks, safeguarding training and supervision sessions.

Recruitment Tracker - The Recruitment Tracker oversees the safer recruitment of new volunteers and creates Volunteer Agreements. Signed agreements are automatically archived for future reference.

Please go onto the attached link for further information and to see a short video which demonstrates how this can help you. Like the Dashboard, it is extremely user friendly.

<https://www.safeguardingdashboards.org.uk/hubs.php>

REVISED CONFIDENTIAL DECLARATION FORM

The revised Confidential Declaration Form is now available to download via [Section 5](#) of the Safer Recruitment and People Management Guidance on the Safeguarding e-manual. This should be used with immediate effect for all roles within Church Bodies where an enhanced DBS, with or without a Barred List check, is required.

Please note that the Privacy Notice that accompanies the Confidential Declaration form is now available as a separate document, also via the above link. This has also been updated on our own website [Safe Recruitment and DBS | The Diocese of Leeds, Church of England \(anglican.org\)](#)

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY – LINK PERSONS

The Safeguarding Team are now looking to recruit “Link persons” from around the Diocese to assist in responding to and managing safeguarding concerns or allegations made against church officers.

A link person should be particularly alert to the sense of isolation and vulnerability, which the church officer may experience. A link person will:-

- Give support and keep church officers informed of progress.
- Record any meetings or contact they have with the church officer and pass on relevant information to the DSA as appropriate. The link person will be supported by the DSA running the case.

Further details about this role can be accessed from the below link:-

[Responding PG V2.pdf \(churchofengland.org\)](#) page 16

The link person will receive specific training of 3 x 90 minute zoom sessions.

This is an excellent opportunity for those with the relevant skills to support church officers and to develop their own skill set on a continuing professional development (CPD) certified course. It is not thought that you would be required for more than one or two cases within a year.

If you are interested in this role, then please email Team Leader Carla Darbyshire on Carla.darbyshire@leeds.anglican.org who will be in touch for further discussions.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Modern Slavery and Safeguarding Training for Parish Safeguarding Officers:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/474705225107> - This training will cover:

1. What is modern slavery?
2. How do you recognise, respond, record and refer concerns about modern slavery and exploitation?
3. What do I need to know about safeguarding when working with potential victims?
4. Where can I get further information and training from?

The training will take place via zoom on the dates listed below, please sign up for one of the sessions:

- February 13, 10am -11.30am
- March 22, 7pm - 8.30pm
- March 24, 1pm - 2.30pm

TRAINING

We would like to remind you that the **Safer Recruitment and People Management, and Domestic Abuse Awareness Training courses** are available to complete online on the Safeguarding Training Portal. Please, encourage all relevant people to complete their required training courses and (if you are a Dashboard user) update your Dashboard accordingly.

If you need any assistance with how to access on-line training, such as you have forgotten your password, you have locked yourself out of your account or need help registering a new account then the e-learning team who work evenings only can assist you with this please contact: elearning@safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org

Please also to refer to the frequently asked questions link below:

<https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/mod/page/view.php?id=1424>

If you have any queries or feedback on the content on any of the on-line courses produced by the National Safeguarding Team (NST) could we ask you to send your communication directly to the NST on safeguarding.learning@churchofengland.org as the production of these courses are separate to the Diocese of Leeds.

SAFER RECRUITMENT

Safer Recruitment and People Management are integral to keeping people safe in the Church. But what does this mean in practice? This short video features people on the ground talking in their own words about their experiences with Safer Recruitment and People Management – why it is important to them and how they have gone about implementing the new House of Bishop's Safer Recruitment & People Management Guidance.

The video also features a survivor's perspective on why this is important. The danger is that too much reliance will be placed on DBS checks...There is a concern that many abusers do not have

convictions and that no intelligence is held about them. Therefore, the selection and recruitment process if properly conducted, is an important, indeed essential in keeping our churches safe!

[Safer Recruitment and People Management Guidance | The Church of England](#)

NATIONAL ALERT – OBSCENE PHONE CALLS

Some clergy within the Diocese of Leeds have now received some obscene phone calls. The link below will explain the nature of the calls and give you direction of what action to take should you receive one. Please report this to the Safeguarding Team should you receive a call of this nature.

The following alert is available [here](#).

INFORMATION ON WHAT PARISHES SHOULD DISPLAY

Please may we remind all parishes to check their websites to ensure that they have a safeguarding link clearly displayed on the front page. Links to this documentation can be found on the:

[Parish Safeguarding Dashboard](#).

[Parish Guidance and Displays | The Diocese of Leeds, Church of England \(anglican.org\)](#)

USEFUL INFORMATION AROUND BELLRINGERS

Please see the below link for some interesting and helpful information around bellringers. Entitled From Practice to Perfect, a handy guide for PCCs on safeguarding and bellringing. Produced by The Central Council of Bellringers, it gives great advice on how bellringers are trained, safeguarded and organised.

[Microsoft Word - How ringing works v31.docx \(mcusercontent.com\)](#)

CHILD OR ADULT IS AT IMMEDIATE RISK – WHAT TO DO

If a child or adult is at *immediate* risk of significant harm, in the first instance you should always contact your local social services team or local police (call 999). You must then inform the Safeguarding Team

OUT OF HOURS ADVICE

A DSA will usually be available between 09.00 and 17.00, Monday to Friday. Please see below for contact details of the DSAs. If you require URGENT safeguarding advice outside these hours, or if you are unable to speak to a DSA, then please contact your Archdeacon. If they are unavailable then you must contact any of the Archdeacons in the Diocese of Leeds.

ALL SAFEGUARDING ENQUIRIES

Please note the contact numbers for the Diocesan Safeguarding Team. This should be your first point of contact for reporting issues or making enquiries. Team email: safeguarding@leeds.anglican.org

Office number: 0113 353 0257

Gail O'Neill, DBS and Safeguarding Administrator, remains responsible for DBS checks. If you have a safeguarding enquiry that does not require the assistance of a Safeguarding Adviser (e.g. DBS) please contact Gail directly at gail.oneill@leeds.anglican.org or 0113 3530204. For all training enquiries, contact the training team on safeguardingtraining@leeds.anglican.org



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